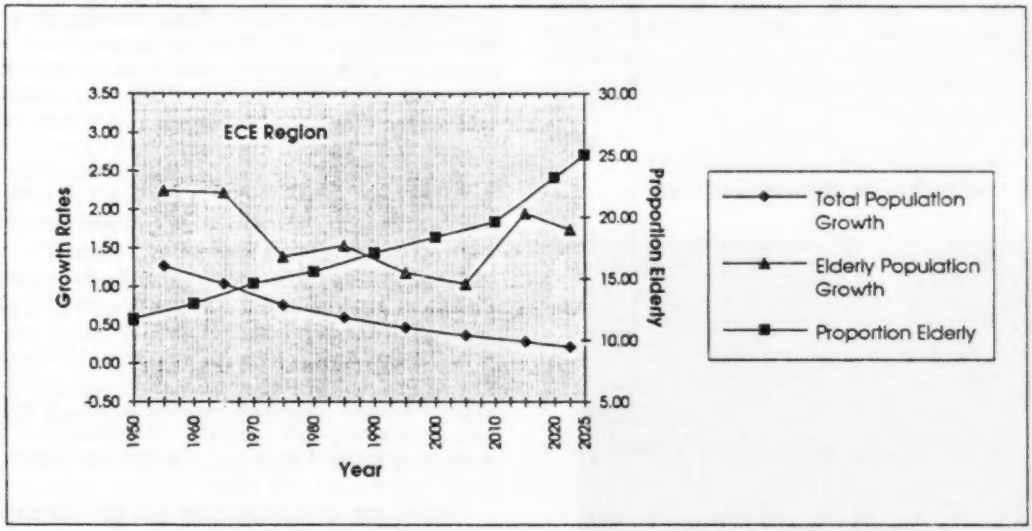
ECE Highlights

UNITED NATIONS ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE No. 17 March 1993

European Population Conference to be held at Geneva



Population Ageing in the UN/ECE Region: 1950-2025

A European Population Conference jointly organized by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), the Council of Europe and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) will take place at the Palais des Nations in Geneva from 23 to 26 March 1993. It is part of the preparatory process for the United Nations International Conference on Population and Development to be held in Cairo in 1994. It is being convened in order:

- To review, examine and analyse key population issues in countries in the region;
- To evaluate the implementation of population related policies in those countries; and
- To prepare a set of recommendations addressing key population issues and policies in the region.

The Issues

In the history of the development of the world's population the decade straddling the end of this century will be decisive. Long-term population trends will depend, among other things, on measures and policies introduced in that decade. At the global level the world's population is expected to grow from 5.3 billion to over 7 billion between 1990 and 2010.

In contrast to the developing countries, the industrialized countries have experienced a sustained period of low, sometimes unprecedentedly low, levels of fertility. At the same time the population is ageing rapidly. That is one reason why both Europe and North America are the targets of international migration.

Another challenge results from the developments taking place in some countries of the UN/ECE region undergoing political and economic transition. Countries in transition face the formidable task of having to catch up with the social and economic progress experienced elsewhere in Europe to offer their populations better standards of living, a less polluted environment and a life free from armed conflict.

In view of the demographic challenges faced, priority areas selected for discussion at the Conference include:

- International migration;
- Fertility and the family;
- Health and mortality;
- Population growth and structure;
- International cooperation in the field of population.

ECE NEWS BRIEFS

PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETS CHAIRMAN AND EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF UN/ECE

The President of the United Nations General Assembly, Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev of Bulgaria, met in Geneva on December 16th with the Chairman of the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE), Ambassador William Rossier of Switzerland, and with the Executive Secretary of the Commission, Under-Secretary-General Gerald Hinteregger. They discussed the changing role of the UN/ECE in response to the radical transformation of States in the region and the resulting increase in membership of the ECE which is now called upon to administer to the special needs and challenges of the countries in transition. It was noted that the ECE can no longer be considered a "club of the rich". They also discussed the importance of the regional dimension of the work of the United Nations and the necessity to maintain an effective presence of the Organization in Europe at a time of great change through the activities of the ECE.

ECE Timber Committee Tree

A new tree in the Palais des Nations park commemorating the 50th session of the UN/ECE's Timber Committee.

On October 21, 1992 an Austrian pine was planted on the Palais des Nations grounds to commemorate the 50th session of the UN/ECE Timber Committee which met that week. The pine represents the importance of forests and forest products and services to the lives of people throughout the UN/ECE region.

Trans-European Railway (TER) Cooperation Project

Trust Fund agreement signed by Hungary, Romania and Turkey

Hungary, Romania and Turkey were the first three countries to sign the Project on 17 December 1992. European Governments participating in this Project commit themselves to establish this Cooperation Trust Fund in order to finance the implementation of one of the most important multinational transport projects in the eastern part of Europe.

WORKSHOP UPDATE

Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition

A Workshop on Industrial Policies in the Economies in Transition was held in Budapest, Hungary on 12 and 13 October 1992. With an attendance of over 80 experts from 22 countries drawn from Governments, industry, banking and finance and the international community, the Workshop provided a unique opportunity to discuss and exchange experience and views on the role of industrial policy in the process of economic reform and enterprise restructuring in the economies in transition, and how the Governments in these countries can improve the climate for foreign investment. This was the first foreign workshop organized with the assistance of the UN/ECE on industrial policy. One clear message that arose from the meeting was that there was an urgent need for the Governments of the economies in transition to elaborate a coherent industrial policy aimed at encouraging domestic industries to restructure, innovate, increase efficiency and compete on national and international markets, and encourage foreign investment.

FUTURE WORKSHOPS ON ECONOMIES IN TRANSITION

1993

March

8-9	Transport Infrastructure Planning (Aachen, Germany)
9-10	CH Thermal 1993 Trade Fair (Lausanne, Switzerland)
29-2 April	Possibilities of Refurbishing Fossil-fired Power Stations, taking into Account Environmental Requirements (Ankara, Turkey)

April

1-2	Privatization of the Road Haulage Industry (Berlin, Germany)
26-28	Energy Efficiency and the Environment (during Hannover Trade Fair) (Hannover, Germany)
26-29	Management and Effective Use of the Existing Housing Stock (Warsaw, Poland)

May

5-8	Sustainable Development and Urban Ecology (Sofia, Bulgaria)
	"Energy City" (Besançon, France)
23-27	Issues in Rehabilitation of Gas
	Transboundary Systems in Belarus and Russian Federation

PUBLICATIONS

Foreign Direct Investment - a Key Resource for Growth in Central and Eastern Europe

Investment Directory on Central and Eastern Europe published

The Transnational Corporations and Management Division of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Development (TCMD/DESD) and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UN/ECE) have jointly published a study which is the first comprehensive overview of foreign direct investment in central and eastern Europe.

No other single issue may be as crucial for the process of economic reform and transition to market economies in the countries of central and eastern Europe as foreign direct investment (FDI). These countries count, to a large extent, on inflows of foreign capital to finance the modernization of obsolete plants and the stimulation of output and trade.

Moreover, FDI can make a key contribution in developing the local private sector through the transfer of technology, management skills and marketing know-how.

The study contains an in-depth analysis of the changing trends of FDI in the region and of the evolving national and international regulatory framework. Individual country sections include statistical tables on inward and outward FDI, sources of data, a list of all relevant laws and regulations and the text of key laws.

World Investment Directory, Volume II: Central and Eastern Europe. UN Sales No. E.93.II.A.1. Price: $US 65.00

UN/ECE Forecasts for Eastern and Western Economies Give Little Hope for Growth

The recently published *Economic Bulletin for Europe* (Vol. 44) presents timely economic data and forecasts for the whole of the UN/ECE region. Weakening output growth, falling inflation and rising unemployment mark the economic situation in the market economies in Western Europe and North America while in Eastern Europe and in the successor states of the former Soviet Union, the difficulties of transforming centrally planned into decentralized market economies have become ever more apparent. Chapter 2 of the Bulletin is devoted to foreign trade of the transition countries, including east-west trade and payments, trade among the republics of the former USSR, the impact of the separation between the Czech and Slovak republics on trade, and the collapse of trade among the republics of the former Yugoslavia. Chapter 3 examines the impact of international support - private capital flows and official financing - for transition countries. A special study on the development of Finland's trade with the former Soviet Union and its impact on the Finnish economy is contained in Chapter 4.

Economic Bulletin for Europe, Vol. 44. Sales No. E.93.II.E.2. Price: $US 65.00

READEX FICHE

Steel Scrap - An Important Raw Material

New developments in scrap preparation and all aspects of scrap management, recycling and utilization are described in a recent publication issued by the UN/ECE's Working Party on Steel. It analyses the quality, economic and environmental aspects of the broader use of scrap in modern steelmaking. It is much cheaper to produce crude steel from scrap, because large investments and pollution problems of cokeries and blast furnaces can be avoided. The study contains four chapters on: general considerations about steel and scrap quality and scrap suitability for steelmaking; maximum scrap utilization and structure of scrap supplies; methods for preparing scrap; and the influence of consumption and costs of scrap on overall steelmaking costs. Four Annexes inform about the development of scrap and steel industries in selected countries.

Steel Product Quality and Maximum Utilization of Scrap ECE/STEEL/77, ECE/Steel Series 1992. Sales No. E/F.92.II.E.25. Price: $US 55.00

FOCUS ON POPULATION ISSUES

UN/ECE launches New Bulletin on International Migration

The first issue of the Bulletin on International Migration in the UN/ECE region was published in November 1992. The Bulletin will be issued twice a year: in November and in May, and is intended to provide government officials, policy makers civil servants and researchers with timely data as well as basic evaluation and analysis of international migration in the region. The November 1992 issue describes the Bulletin's purpose; examines issues such as displaced population due to armed conflicts; asylum seekers; and "regular" migration.

Unprecedented Ageing in Europe and North America

According to a new UN/ECE study the large and rapid increases in the number of elderly persons will herald a new era of population ageing in Europe and North America. Population ageing will affect social and economic systems, the quality of life and almost all other social arrangements until the middle of the next century and, inevitably, for many decades thereafter. The number of elderly persons - defined in the study as persons over 60 - in the two parts of the ECE region was less than 90 million in 1950 but has more than doubled in the last forty years to reach a total of 185 million today. Conservative estimates indicate that this figure will increase by at least 125 million in the next thirty-five years and reach a total of more than 310 million in 2025. The present study and one to follow - which will examine the social implications of population ageing using national case studies - are designed to serve three main purposes: to provide a review of the facts and determinants of population ageing; to analyse the major economic and social consequences of population ageing; and to highlight the key policy issues which arise.

Demographic causes and economic consequences of population ageing: Europe and North America. Economic Studies No. 3. Sales No. GV.E.92.0.4. Price: $US 70.00. English only.

OTHER SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

General

UN/ECE Workshops for Economies in Transition (ECE/INFO/92)

The Scope for Macroeconomic Policy to Alleviate Unemployment in Western Europe—a UN/ECE Discussion Paper (Vol. 2, 1992, No. 3)

Changing Population Age Structures 1990-2015: Demographic and Economic Consequences and Implications. Sales No. GV.E.92.0.20. Price: $US 80.00. English only.

Environment

Impacts of Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution, ECE/EB.AIR/31. Sales No. E.92.II.E.24. Price: $US 28.00

Application of Environmental Impact Assessment Principles to Policies, Plans and Programmes. Environmental Series 5—ECE/ENVWA/27. Sales No. E.92.II.E.28. Price: $US 19.00

Industry

Annual Review of the Chemical Industry 1990, ECE/CHEM/84. Sales No. E.92.II.E.21. Price: $US 42.00

The Steel Market in 1991 (ECE/Steel/78). Sales No. E.92.II.E.26. Price: $US 27.00

Statistics

Statistical Journal of the UN/ECE, Vol. 9, No. 3, 1992

Trade

East-West Investment and Joint Ventures News No. 12 (September 1992) Published quarterly. The annual subscription is $US 80.00. Single $US 20.00

Transport

European Agreement concerning Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) and Protocol of Signature (Vols. I and II) (not sold separately). Sales No. E.92.VIII.1. Price: $US 85.00

WHERE TO ORDER

The publications listed with sales prices may be ordered from: **United Nations Bookshop, Sales Unit, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland** and a number of bookstores in the ECE region. Send cheque or money order in US dollars made payable to: UNITED NATIONS PUBLICATIONS.

Those publications listed without a sales price may be obtained from the Information Officer, Economic Commission for Europe, Palais des Nations, 1211 Geneva 10, Switzerland.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Low-Waste Technology and Environmentally Sound Products

24 to 28 May 1993

A UN/ECE Seminar on Low-Waste Technology and Environmentally Sound Products to be held in Warsaw, Poland, will provide a forum for the exchange of views and experience in the formulation and implementation of integrated policies and management options which promote both low-waste technology and environmentally sound products. The Seminar topics include: conceptual approach towards environmentally sound production processes and products; legislative, regulatory and administrative frameworks for fostering the concept; economics for environmentally sound products and production; and raising awareness and promoting information exchange for producers and consumers. Recommendations to ECE Governments and proposals for specific action-oriented follow-up activities on the subject will be drawn up for consideration by the UN/ECE Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems at their seventh session in 1994.

Seminar on the Promotion of Foreign Direct Investment (FDI)

14 and 15 May 1993

The objectives of the Seminar on Foreign Direct Investment to be held in Ljubljana, Slovenia in May 1993 will be - to assist countries in transition in elaborating effective policies and instruments for the promotion of FDI; to analyse the experience of selected market economies in designing and implementing FDI policies; to review the policies and experience of countries in transition in elaborating and implementing their FDI policies; to identify the most effective means of promoting FDI as well as problems encountered and possible remedies and to facilitate institution-building related to FDI in the countries in transition.

ECE CALENDAR

1993

	March
1-5	Working Party on Road Traffic Safety
2-4	Steering Committee of the Energy Efficiency 21 Project
8-10	COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE
16-19	Working Party on Facilitation of International Trade Procedures
	April
1-2	Working Party on Combined Transport
16-19	ECE Senior Advisers on the Environment and Water Problems
19-27	FORTY-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE
26-28	Work Session on Cultural Statistics (*Paris, France*)
28.04-7.05	Working Party on the Transport of Dangerous Goods
	May
11	Seminar on Energy Efficiency Standards and Labelling Systems
10-13	Seminar on Metallurgy and Ecology (*Nancy, France*)
10-14	Seminar on New Coal Utilization Technologies (*Helsinki, Finland*)
11-13	Working Party on Electric Power
12-14	Working Party on Standardization Policies
13	Meeting of Experts on Clean Coal Technologies (*Helsinki, Finland*)
24-27	Working Party on Relations between Agriculture and the Environment
24-28	Seminar on Foundry Production and Ecology (*Minsk, Belarus*)
24-28	Symposium on Energy Efficiency and Economic Transition in Central and Eastern Europe (*Paris, France*)

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ECE Highlights provides a round-up of news and information on major ECE events and publications and is available free of charge from the Information Officer.

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